S1527-3

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR SEPTEMBER 1990 NOVEMBER 1990

Private Sector Job Creation Negative In September

Area Unemployment Now 3.5%—D.C. 6.8%

Labor Force

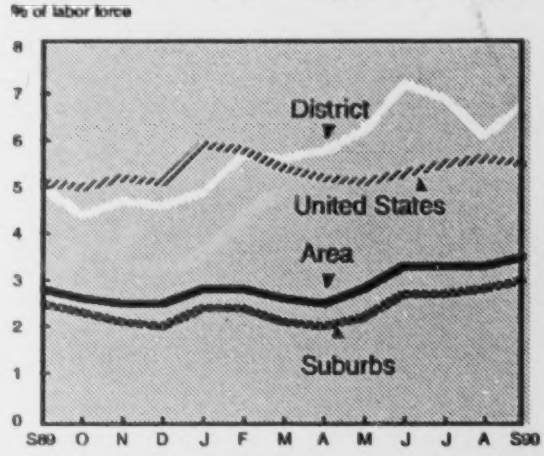
In September, the unemployment rate in the District rose to 6.8 percent of the labor force, up from 6.1 percent in August. The rates for the suburbs and for the Area also advanced to new highs for the year. The suburban rate moved from 2.9 percent in August to 3.0 percent in September. The Area rate rose from 3.3 percent to 3.5 percent. This marks the fourth consecutive month that the Area's rate has been above 3 percent.

The unadjusted September rate for all civilian workers in the United States was 5.5 percent. This represents the eighth consecutive month that the District's rate has been above that for the nation.

The District

Between August and September both the number of District residents in the labor force and the number with jobs declined. As a result, the unemployment rate rose. This was a fairly common pattern for the month of September. During the past 10 years, the District's unemployment rate in September has increased in seven years, declined twice and remained unchanged once.

Unemployment Rates
September 1989 - September 1990



The over-the-year measurements, however, signal significant changes. Compared to September 1989, there were 21,900 fewer District residents on employer payrolls this year, an over-the-year drop of 7.8 percent. Part of the relatively large decrease in jobholders can be traced to an additional 4,400 persons on the jobless rolls. The remainder is traceable to a 17,400-person decline in the labor force, a reduction of 5.8 percent.

Continued on page 3

Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Director

The Department of Employment Services

Working to keep Washington working.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR SEPTEMBER 1990 — NOVEMBER 1990

Contents

Labor Force
- *District* 1
- *Area & Suburbs* 3
- *Characteristics of UI Applicants* 5

Job Growth
- *District* 5
- *Suburbs* 6
- *Area* 6
- *Growth Rates* 9

Special Article
- *Industrial Employment Profile: Jobs in the Washington Area During the Downside of Business Cycles* 10

Unemployment Rates
- *Metropolitan Areas* 15
- *States* 16
- *Selected Cities* 16

Departments
- *Unemployment Insurance Activities* 18
- *Consumer Price Index* 19
- *Hours & Earnings* 21

The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson, and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

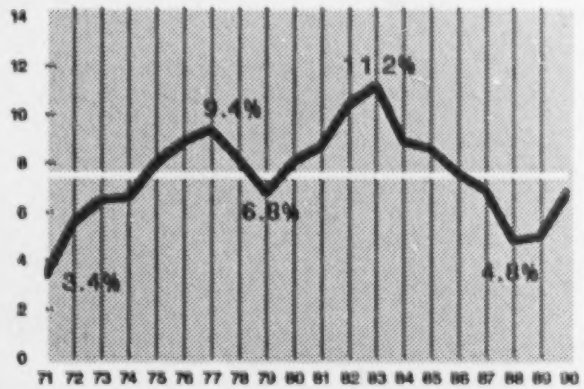
Continued from page 1

There are many ways in which the labor force can decline. Some unemployed workers have difficulty in locating employment, because of their disappointments, they simply stop looking for work. Other workers retire, some become ill or disabled, and some die. Some leave the labor force for school, some to raise families and some to take care of ill relatives. Still others move from the City, while they may remain employed, they are no longer counted among the City's labor force, because they no longer reside in the District.

On a monthly basis, there are no official statistics that estimate these kinds of changes in the labor force. However, annual averages from the Current Population Survey (CPS) for 1989 indicate that about 20 percent of the District residents who were not in the labor force were "keeping house," about 14 percent were "in school" and about 4 percent were "unable to work." The remainder (about 60 percent) were classified as "other." More than half this "other" group were 65 years old or older, thus, presumably retired. Even on an annual basis, however, there is no measure taken of labor market discouragement below the national level. But discouragement undoubtedly increases when unemployment begins to expand as is currently happening in the District and the Washington Area.

For the past several years, the U.S. Census Bureau has been reporting declines in their estimates for the population in the District. Background data on the District from the Census Bureau's monthly household survey this year indicates that the Census is continuing the population decline. Thus, the recent monthly declines in the size of the District's labor force probably reflect both a shrinkage in population and an increase in labor market discouragement.

District Unemployment Rates In the Month of September 1971 - 1990



Average Rate for August: 7.5%

The Area & Suburbs

The monthly September labor market pattern in the suburbs was similar to that in the District. The suburban labor force and employment declined and unemployment and the unemployment rate increased. In the suburbs, the labor force shrunk by 15,500 workers, while the number of suburbanites with jobs fell by 17,400. As in the District, most of the decline from jobs resulted in withdrawals from the labor force as summer workers returned to non-work activities. However, the unemployment rolls in the suburbs also

Continued on page 4

Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County

	Sept.a/ 1990	Aug.b/ 1990	Sept.b/ 1989
District of Columbia	**6.8**	**6.1**	**5.0**
Frederick County	5.0	4.8	2.6
Calvert County	4.2	4.2	3.2
Prince Georges Cty.	4.1	3.9	3.4
Alexandria City	3.3	3.2	2.4
Stafford County	3.3	2.9	1.8
Charles County	3.0	3.2	2.4
Montgomery County	2.8	2.7	2.4
Arlington County	2.6	2.5	2.1
Prince William County	2.4	2.4	2.0
Fairfax County	2.2	2.1	1.8
Manassas City	2.2	2.3	1.4
Loudoun County	1.7	1.7	1.6
Falls Church City	1.7	2.1	1.5
Manassas Park City	1.7	2.2	1.4
Fairfax City	1.6	1.9	1.8

a/ Preliminary. b/ Revised.

SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department Employment Development, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Continued from page 3

increased by 1,900 which was enough to push the unemployment rate up a marginal tenth of a percentage point to 3.0 percent in September.

Over the year, the suburban labor force actually grew by 28,700 new workers. Unlike most months in the past few years, the job market was unable to absorb all the new workers. Only 16,700 additional new employees were added to local payrolls—a yearly increase of only nine-tenths of a percentage point. As a result, there were 12,100 more suburbanites without jobs this September as compared to September of last year. This represents a 26 percent increase in suburban unemployment. These over-the-year changes produced a significant six-tenths of a percentage point increase in the suburban unemployment rate and pushed the rate to 3.0 percent for the first time since 1986.

Combined District and suburban activities in September caused the Area's labor force to decline by 18,000 between August and September reflecting a 21,700-person employment decline and an increase of 3,600 in the jobless pool for the Area.

Over the year, growth in the suburban labor force offset the decline in the District to produce an 11,300-person increase in the Area's labor supply. Due to the large employment loss in the District, the number of Area workers with jobs actually declined by 5,200. As a result of the small increase in the Area's labor supply and the decline in employment, the unemployment rolls increased by 16,500 persons, an increase of 27 percent. **Seven of every ten persons added to the Area's expanded pool of unemployed over the year were suburbanites.** These labor market changes induced a significant seven-tenths of a percent increase in the Area's unemployment rate and moved it up from 2.8 percent in September 1989 to 3.5 percent this last September. The last time the rate was 3.5 percent was in February 1987, some 43 months ago. However, at 3.5 percent, the Area's rate is two full percentage points below the U.S. rate and one of the lowest among major metropolitan areas. Thus, the local labor market is beginning to show some improvement from the very tight supply conditions experienced over the past several years. A positive note in a declining market.

Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA
September 1990[a/]

					Net Change From	
	Sept.[b/] 1990	Aug.[c/] 1990	Sept.[d/] 1989	Aug.[d/] 1989	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	295,400	297,900	312,800	315,900	-2,500	-17,400
Total Employed	275,400	279,700	297,300	300,900	-4,300	-21,900
Total Unemployed	19,900	18,200	15,500	15,000	1,700	4,400
Unemployment Rate[e/]	6.8	6.1	5.0	4.7	0.7	1.8
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,925,100	1,940,600	1,896,400	1,936,400	-15,500	28,700
Total Employed	1,867,300	1,884,700	1,850,600	1,893,500	-17,400	16,700
Total Unemployed	57,900	56,000	45,800	42,900	1,900	12,100
Unemployment Rate[e/]	3.0	2.9	2.4	2.2	0.1	0.6
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,220,500	2,238,500	2,209,200	2,252,300	-18,000	11,300
Total Employed	2,142,700	2,164,400	2,147,900	2,194,400	-21,700	-5,200
Total Unemployed	77,800	74,200	61,300	57,900	3,600	16,500
Unemployment Rate[e/]	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.6	0.2	0.7

a/ Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding. b/ Preliminary. c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions. e/ Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia, the Virginia Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, Frederick, and Calvert.

Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
September 1990 & September 1989
(percent)

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed
		September 1990	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	13.3	12.9	25.6
Suburbs	86.7	87.1	74.4
		September 1989	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	14.2	13.8	25.3
Suburbs	85.8	86.2	74.7

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in the District of Columbia totaled 9,239 in September 1990 down 2,293 claimants from August, but up 788 from September 1989. In September 1990, 53 percent of all UI claimants were males. Occupationally, clerical and sales accounted for 28 percent of the total claimants. Professional, technical and managerial workers accounted for 27 percent and service workers 19 percent.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 10.0 weeks for all claimants in September. Over the month, the duration for males rose from 9.5 weeks to 10.1 weeks. For females, the duration also increased from 9.0 weeks to 9.9 weeks. In September 1989, the average duration was 10.4 weeks for both males and females.

Job Growth

The District

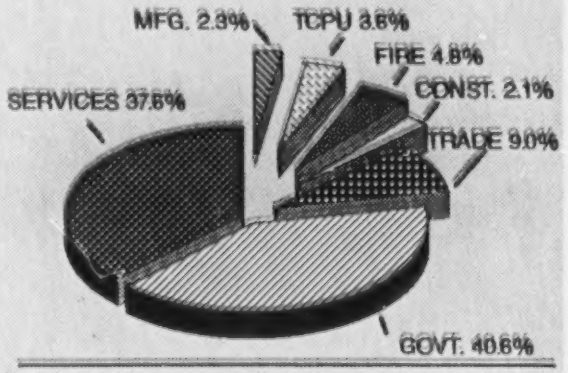
The number of jobs in the District increased by 1,800 for a gain of 0.3 percent between August and September. The private sector was responsible for the increase with primarily seasonal gains in Services (3,200 jobs) related to the start of the new school year. These gains are reflected in the substantial increase in Educational Services (2,400 jobs).

The public sector declined by 200 with a seasonal loss in Federal Government (2,100 jobs) partially offset by a seasonal increase in State and Local Government (1,900 jobs).

Over the year (September 1989 to September 1990), the number of District jobs declined 0.1 percent for a loss of 700 jobs. **The private sector decreased at a rate of 0.7 percent for a loss of 2,900 jobs.** The primary job loser, Trade, accounted for 59 percent of the private sector decrease with a loss of 1,700 jobs. Significant private sector losses also occurred in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (600 jobs).

The public sector increased at a rate of 2.2 percent with gains in both State and Local Government (1,100 jobs) and Federal Government (1,100 jobs).

Distribution of District Jobs
November 1990



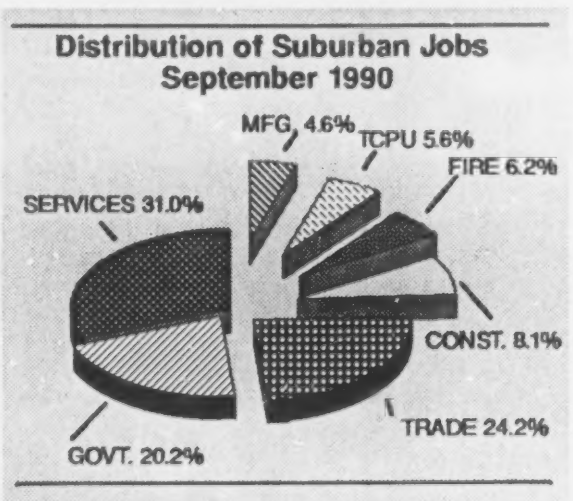
Continued from page 5

The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs increased 0.3 percent for a gain of 3,900 jobs between August and September. The public sector was primarily responsible for the gain with a seasonal increase in State and Local Government (16,600 jobs) partially offset by a decline in Federal Government (1,300 jobs). The Maryland suburbs accounted for 73 percent of the growth in State and Local Government while the Virginia suburbs were responsible for the loss in Federal Government.

The private sector declined by 11,400 jobs with losses primarily in Services (4,800 jobs), Trade (3,200 jobs), Construction (1,700 jobs) and Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (1,300 jobs). The Maryland suburbs accounted for 64 percent of the losses in Services and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate while the Virginia suburbs were responsible for 63 percent of the losses in Construction and Trade.

Over the year (September 1989 to September 1990), suburban jobs grew at a rate of 0.4 percent for a gain of 5,900 jobs. **The Maryland suburbs grew at a rate of 1.0 percent accounting for all of the suburban growth while the Virginia suburbs decreased at a rate of 0.2 percent.**



The public sector accounted for the growth in suburban jobs with a gain in State and Local Government (11,300 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (1,400 jobs) resulting in growth over the year of 3.2 percent. Sixty-nine percent of the growth in government occured in the Maryland suburbs.

The private sector declined by 0.3 percent with growth in the service-producing sector (10,600 jobs) offset by a decline in the goods-producing sector (14,600 jobs). The primary job gainers were Trade (6,500 jobs) and Services (3,400 jobs) while job losses were primarily concentrated in Construction (12,500 jobs). Seventy-one percent of the growth as well as 93 percent of the decline in these industries occurred in the Virginia suburbs. The Virginia suburbs were also responsible for 94 percent of the growth in Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (1,700 jobs) while the Maryland suburbs accounted for two-thirds of the loss in Manufacturing (2,100 jobs).

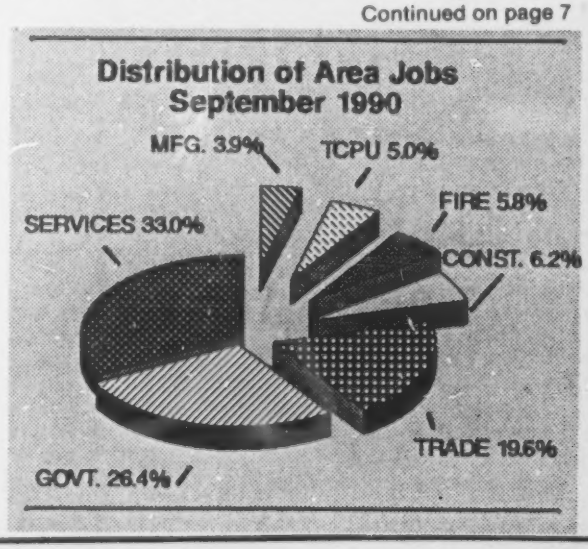
The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area gained 5,700 jobs between August and September for an increase of 0.3 percent. The public sector was responsible for the growth with seasonal gains in State and Local Government (18,500 jobs) partially offset by a seasonal loss in Federal Government (2,800 jobs).

The private sector declined by 0.6 percent with losses primarily in Trade (3,700 jobs), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,800 jobs), Construction (1,600 jobs) and Services (1,600 jobs).

Over the year (September 1989 to September

Continued on page 7



Continued from page 6

1990), the Area grew at a rate of 0.2 percent for a gain of 5,200 jobs. The public sector grew at a rate of 2.1 percent, generating 12,100 jobs and accounting for all of the new area jobs as gains in State and Local Government (12,400 jobs) were partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (300 jobs).

The private sector declined at a rate of 0.4 percent for a loss of 6,900 jobs. The job losses were concentrated in Construction (12,700 jobs), Manufacturing (2,200 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,600 jobs) while job growth occurred in Trade (4,800 jobs), Services (3,200 jobs) and Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (1,600 jobs).

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
INDUSTRY	Sept.[b/] 1990	Aug.[c/] 1990	Sept.[d/] 1989	Sept.[b/] 1990	Aug.[c/] 1990	Sept.[d/] 1989
TOTAL	**683.1**	**681.3**	**683.8**	**2,246.6**	**2,240.9**	**2,241.4**
Total Private Sector	**406.1**	**404.1**	**409.0**	**1,653.3**	**1,662.7**	**1,660.2**
Total Government	**277.0**	**277.2**	**274.8**	**593.3**	**578.2**	**581.2**
Total Goods Producing	**30.4**	**30.5**	**30.7**	**229.2**	**231.7**	**241.1**
Manufacturing	**16.0**	**16.2**	**16.1**	**87.9**	**88.8**	**90.1**
Total Durables	2.4	2.5	2.4	41.6	42.1	44.2
Stone, Clay, Glass Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.1	3.2	3.5
Electronic & Electric Equip.	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.0	17.0	17.3
All Other Durable	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.5	21.9	23.4
Total Non-Durable	13.6	13.7	13.7	46.3	46.7	45.9
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	4.7	4.7	4.9
Printing & Publishing	12.9	13.0	13.0	35.7	36.1	35.2
All Other Non-Durable	0.4	0.4	0.4	5.9	5.9	5.8
Mining	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**1.1**	**1.1**	**1.1**
Construction	**14.3**	**14.2**	**14.5**	**140.2**	**141.8**	**152.9**
Total Service Producing	**652.7**	**650.8**	**653.1**	**2,017.4**	**2,009.2**	**1,997.3**
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	**24.6**	**24.7**	**24.7**	**112.4**	**112.2**	**110.8**
All Transportation	9.7	9.8	9.8	57.5	57.3	56.0
Railroads	4.2	4.2	4.1	5.3	5.3	5.3
Transportation ex. Railroad	5.5	5.6	5.7	52.2	52.0	50.7
Communications & Public Utilities	14.9	14.9	14.9	54.9	54.9	54.8
Trade	**61.2**	**61.7**	**62.9**	**439.9**	**443.6**	**435.1**
Wholesale	8.2	8.2	8.4	77.8	78.3	78.8
Retail	53.0	53.5	54.5	362.1	365.3	356.3
General Merchandise	N/A	N/A	N/A	39.4	39.5	39.7
Food Stores	N/A	N/A	N/A	53.0	53.4	50.3
Automotive	N/A	N/A	N/A	38.8	39.1	39.1
Apparel & Accessories	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.1	26.0	27.1
Eating & Drinking Places	27.0	27.5	27.7	117.5	119.8	115.6
All Other Retail	26.0	26.0	26.8	87.3	87.5	84.5

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

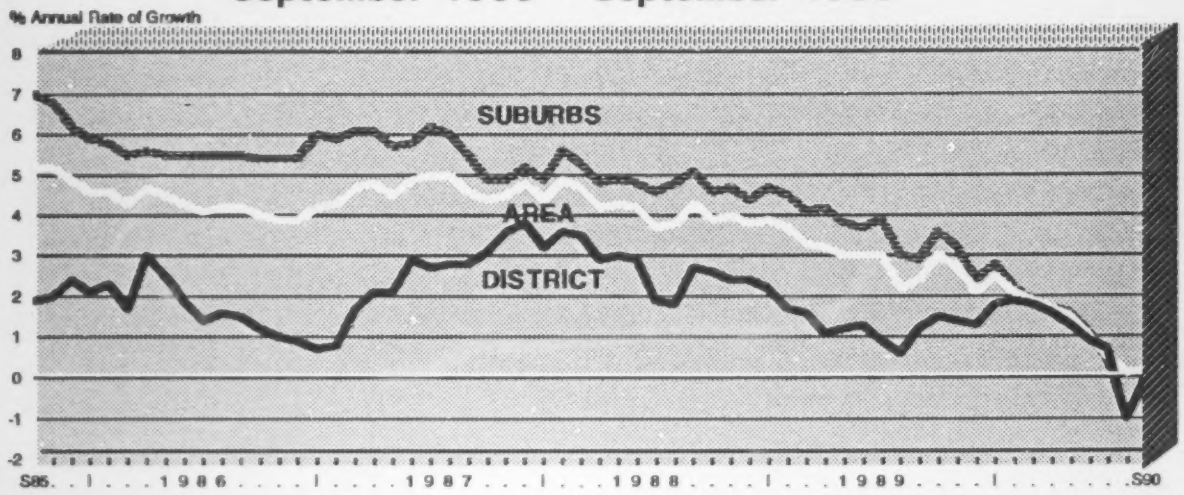
INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	Sept.[b/] 1990	Aug.[c/] 1989	Sept.[d/] 1989	Sept.[b/] 1990	Aug.[c/] 1989	Sept.[d/] 1989
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**32.8**	**33.3**	**33.4**	**129.9**	**131.7**	**131.5**
Finance	15.6	16.0	16.0	60.1	61.2	60.7
Depository Institutions	8.5	9.0	9.1	39.0	39.9	39.3
Other Finance	7.1	7.0	6.9	21.1	21.3	21.4
Insurance	7.4	7.4	7.6	26.7	26.8	26.8
Real Estate	9.8	9.9	9.8	43.1	43.7	44.0
Eating & Drinking Places	28.0	28.4	28.1	120.3	119.6	119.4
All Other Retail	26.2	27.0	26.7	87.9	88.4	85.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**33.5**	**33.5**	**33.6**	**132.6**	**132.5**	**132.8**
Finance	16.0	16.0	16.1	61.7	61.8	61.3
Depository Institutions	9.0	9.0	9.2	40.4	40.4	39.8
Other Finance	7.0	7.0	6.9	21.3	21.4	21.5
Insurance	7.5	7.5	7.6	26.8	26.8	26.9
Real Estate	10.0	10.0	9.9	44.1	43.9	44.6
Services	**257.1**	**253.9**	**257.3**	**741.9**	**743.5**	**738.7**
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	17.1	16.3	16.8	37.6	36.8	36.8
Personal Services	3.2	3.2	3.4	22.5	22.6	22.5
Business Services	39.6	39.0	41.4	181.3	181.9	181.4
Services to Buildings	14.8	14.6	15.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Personnel Supply	8.3	8.1	9.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Computer & Data Process	6.3	6.2	6.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Business Services	10.2	10.1	9.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Services	36.8	36.9	37.2	114.4	114.4	112.0
Legal Services	29.9	30.6	29.0	40.9	41.8	39.7
Educational Services	31.1	28.7	31.0	44.2	40.8	44.4
Social Services	12.3	12.3	12.1	34.0	34.1	33.2
Membership Organizations	34.0	33.8	32.7	60.1	60.3	58.5
Engineering/Management Ser.	43.1	43.5	43.6	142.7	144.4	146.0
All Other Services	10.0	9.6	10.1	64.2	66.4	64.2
Government	**277.0**	**277.2**	**274.8**	**593.3**	**578.2**	**581.2**
Federal Government	221.0	223.1	219.9	365.7	369.1	366.0
State & Local Government	56.0	54.1	54.9	227.6	209.1	215.2
State Government	51.2	49.3	50.1	81.1	74.2	78.5
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	146.5	134.9	136.7
Public Transportation	4.6	4.8	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

a/ Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. b/ Preliminary. c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions.

Data includes all full-and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Monthly Over-The-Year Rate of Job Growth
September 1985 - September 1990



Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past five years (September 1985 to September 1990), the Washington Area has created new jobs at a rate of 3.7 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has declined from a peak of 5.4 percent in September 1985. **Between September 1989 and September 1990, the Area's job growth slowed to just two-tenths of a percentage point. The over-the-year rate for this past September was down sharply from the 2.4 percent recorded in September of last year.**

During September, suburban over-the-year growth also measured a very modest four-tenths of a percent, down significantly from the 2.9 percent registered in September 1989. Job growth in the District declined one-tenth of a percentage point over the year, compared to growth of 1.2 percent recorded in September of last year.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from 99,200 new jobs produced between September 1985, to just 5,200 between September 1989 and September 1990. Over the past year, 5,900 new jobs were added to the Suburban economy, while the District lost 700 jobs. **The Washington Area is creating new jobs at an even slower pace than the sluggish U.S. economy (0.2 percent vs. 1.5 percent for the U.S. economy).** This is the eighth consecutive month that the local job growth rate has been below the U.S. rate.

Note: It should be recognized that the monthly estimates of jobs are subject to annual benchmark revisions. These revisions can be plus or minus one percent or more, a range well within the current measurements of change.

Profile of Job Growth Rates
September 1985 to September 1990

The Area	
Average 60 months	3.7%
High, September 1985	5.4%
Low, August 1990	0.1%
1-year ago	2.4%
Last month	0.1%
Current month	0.2%
The Suburbs	
Average 60 months	4.5%
High, October 1985	7.0%
Low, September 1990	0.4%
1-year ago	2.9%
Last month	0.6%
Current month	0.4%
The District	
Average 60 months	1.9%
High, December 1987	3.8%
Low, August 1990	-1.0%
1-year ago	1.2%
Last month	-1.0%
Current month	-0.1%

Note: Data reflects benchmark revisions for 1988-1989.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT PROFILE:

Jobs in the Washington Area During the Downside of Business Cycles

Since January, the creation of new jobs in the Washington Metropolitan Area has fallen from an annual rate of 2.5 percent to 0.2 percent in September. This local pattern reflects similar declines all along the East Coast and economists are debating if the United States itself has entered into a recession. This Profile of local jobs examines total job creation in the United States, the Washington Area, the District and its suburbs during the three most recent national recessions. It reviews the length and depth of local job losses during the downside of business cycles. The data used in this Profile are monthly counts of jobs from the Non-Agricultural Wage and Salary Employment statistical time series commonly referred to as the "Monthly Establishment Survey."

The Recession of 1973-1975

During the 1970's, the American economy experienced a single 16-month long recession which began in November 1973 and extended to March 1975 (See Chart No. 1). During recessions, job growth tends to be an indicator which lags behind the turning points in the business cycle. In a downturn, employers generally implement a host of measures to reduce production or control costs before layoffs occur. This lag tendency in job decline was very clear in the national economy during the 1973-1975 recession.

At the beginning of the recession in November 1973, the U.S. economy was actually creating total new jobs at a healthy annual rate of 4.0 percent. New job creation continued to be positive, but declined during the first 12 months of the recession. It was not until the 13th month of the recession (December 1974), when the national economy actually lost its first jobs. The start of the first job losses occurred only four months before the official end of the recession in March 1975. However, The American economy continued to lose jobs for eight additional months **after** the recession officially ended. Thus as a result of the 1973-1975 recession, the national economy lost jobs for a total of 12 consecutive months. The peak period of losses occurred between June 1974 and June 1975 when 2.1 million jobs were reported lost, an over-the-year decrease of 2.6 percent.

Locally, The Washington Area was creating new jobs at the beginning of the 1973-1975 recession, in November 1973, at an annual rate of 3.2 percent, slightly lower than the 4.0 percent for the U.S. economy. Although the Area job growth rate generally declined throughout the full 16 months of the national recession, new job creation continued to be positive. It was not until May 1975, two months **after** the national recessions officially ended, that the Area started to report over-the-year job losses. These losses lasted for four months. By September 1975, the Area started to produce net new jobs and the local recovery was under way. During the four months of job losses, the peak loss occurred in July 1975 when the job market lost 4,800 jobs. This represented a job loss of only 0.4 of a percentage point, not a very substantial loss.

At the beginning of the recession, the District was producing over-the-year new job growth at a modest rate of 0.2 percent. The City had demonstrated job losses in early 1973, before the national recession began. However, for the first 14 months of the official national recession, the District actually created new jobs. In October 1974, when the national recession was nearing its end, the City was producing new jobs at a relatively strong rate of 2.1 percent. District job growth did not actually turn negative until February 1975, just **two months before** the official end of the national recession. However, once the District began reporting negative job growth, it continued for eleven consecutive months, or until January 1976, some nine months after the end of the U.S. recession. The peak job loss occurred in November 1975 when the District recorded a net over-the-year loss of 9,100 jobs, a decline of 1.6 percent. However, a full recovery in the District did not immediately follow due to a

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

second period of over-the-year job losses which lasted from June 1976 to March 1977, a period of 10 consecutive months. This second period of job losses ended some 24 months after the national recession ended.

During the official period of the 1973-to-1975 recession, the Washington suburbs showed absolutely no job losses. At the beginning of the recession in November 1973, the suburbs were producing jobs at a very strong over-the-year rate of 5.5 percent. In September 1974, the job creation rate declined to 0.5 percent, reflecting a strike in the food processing industry, not due to the recession. **After** the recession ended in March 1975, the suburban economy demonstrated a four month period of very slow growth from May 1975 to August 1975. In August, job growth netted only 600 new jobs, a growth of only 0.1 percent. Suburban jobs then quickly rebounded and one year later (August 1976), the suburbs were producing yearly new jobs at a healthy rate of 3.9 percent.

1980 Recession

During 1980, the U.S. economy again slipped into a short recession. This downturn lasted only six month, beginning in January 1980 and ending in July 1980 (See Chart No. 2). This recession produced 5 months of negative or zero over-the-year national job growth. The negative growth started in June 1980, **4 months after** the recession commenced, and ended in October 1980, 3 months after the recession ended. The peak job loss during the 5 months occurred in July 1980 when national over-the-year job losses numbered 2.1 million.

Job growth in the Washington Area was not impacted by the 1980 recession. The Area showed a job creation rate of 2.8 percent at the beginning of the recession (January 1980) and 2.6 percent at the end of the recession (July 1980). In the District, there were no job losses during the six months of the recession. Two months later in September 1980, the District recorded a single month of job declines of 0.9 percent.

Suburban job creation remained strong throughout the short recession measuring 4.2 percent at the beginning in January 1980 and 3.8 percent at the end in July 1980.

1982-1983 Recession

The short 1980 U.S. recession was quickly followed by a longer and deeper recession of 16 months duration. The downturn began in July 1981 and ended in November 1982 (See Chart No. 2). This recession demonstrated a much shorter job lag period than the 1973-1975 recession. The U.S. economy reported over-the-year job losses in December 1981, just **4 months after the recession started.** The American job losses lasted for 18 consecutive months, or until May 1983, some 6 months after the recession ended. The peak job decline occurred in October 1982 when the U.S. job market recorded an over-the-year job loss of 2.4 million.

In December 1982, the Washington Area began reporting job losses simultaneously with those in the nation. This was just **4 months after the recession started.** The duration of job losses in the Area was shorter than in the United States, lasting for 12 consecutive months, 6 months shorter than for the nation. In the Area, the peak over-the-year job losses occurred in August 1982, when a loss of 24,300 jobs was reported, a decline of 1.5 percent.

In the District, the duration of job declines during this period was very extensive, lasting for 27 consecutive months. In fact, job losses in the City actually began in April 1981, **3 months before** the official start of the national recession in July 1981. Positive job growth in the District did not re-appear until July 1983, or 7 months after the end of the recession and one month after the first positive job growth was reported in the U.S. economy. The peak District job loss was reported between January 1981 and January 1982 at 17,600 lost jobs, a significant decline of 2.9 percent.

Compared to the District, job losses in the suburbs during the 1981-1982 recession were very minimal. The first suburban losses were not reported until April 1982, **8 months after the recession started,** 4 months after the U.S. and Area economies started losing jobs, and 12 full

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

months after the first job losses in the District. These suburban job losses lasted for only 6 months, from April 1982 through September 1982. At its maximum, suburban job losses in April 1982 represented only a half a percent, or 9,400 jobs.

The job recovery from the 1981-1982 recession was steep and rapid. By December 1983, some 12 months after the recession, the U.S. economy was creating new over-the-year jobs at a rate of 3.8 percent. The Washington Area was doing even better with a job creation rate of 5.1 percent, led by a very strong suburban surge of 7.3 percent, and the District adding new jobs at a rate of 1.1 percent.

The Current Situation

Since the end of the last recession, the nation and the Washington Area have experienced seven years of very strong job creation. As reported monthly in the *Area Labor Summary*, the rate of growth in the Washington Area has been steadily declining since about mid-1987. In January of this year, local job creation rates were still relatively strong. However, in February, the job creation rates for the Area, the District and the suburbs all converged and began a rapid decline to below one percent. The District began reporting actual job losses in August of this year and the suburbs are producing virtually no new jobs (See Chart No. 3).

Observations

As other Departmental studies have indicated.[1], the Washington Area's economy and job market does indeed show sensitivity to swings in the business cycle and national recessions. This study utilizes monthly data rather than annual averages and tends to confirm the earlier finding. **That being clearly, the Washington Area is not and has never been "recession proof."**

Perhaps, the local recession-proof myth developed because the suburban portion of the Area economy was not significantly impacted by the past three recessions. Even though suburban job losses were slight and the duration short, the suburban job market did clearly demonstrate the downward cyclical swings in the rate of job creation common to all recessionary periods.

Given the past lag relationship between the start of a recession and the start of negative job growth, it appears as if the U.S. economy may either be in a recession or one is about to begin. It also appears that for the first time the Washington Area will probably lead the national economy in reporting negative job growth.

The most apparent and significant differences between the current and past patterns are the recent convergence of falling job growth rates in the Area, the District and the Suburbs. This has not occurred in past cycles. This convergence indicates that in the current downturn the Washington suburbs are experiencing slow job growth to a much greater extent than in the past. The District suffered the bulk of Area job losses during the earlier recessions. This will not likely be the case in this downturn.

Without the counterbalancing suburban job growth evident in past recessions, the bottomside of the current Washington Area business cycle may be deeper and the duration longer than in the past. The impact of this business cycle is likely to be broader and felt across the entire Washington Area.

It should be remembered that the downside of a business cycle is followed by a recovery period that usually provides opportunities for a strong and a rather sustained period of job growth. Given the diverse services industry base of the local economy and the presence of the Federal Government, it is likely that local growth will again be significant through the latter part of the 1990's, though less rapid than during the boom period of the 1980's. Over the past forty years, the local economy has continually created new jobs at a more rapid rate of growth than the U.S. economy and this feature should re-emerge in the future.

---

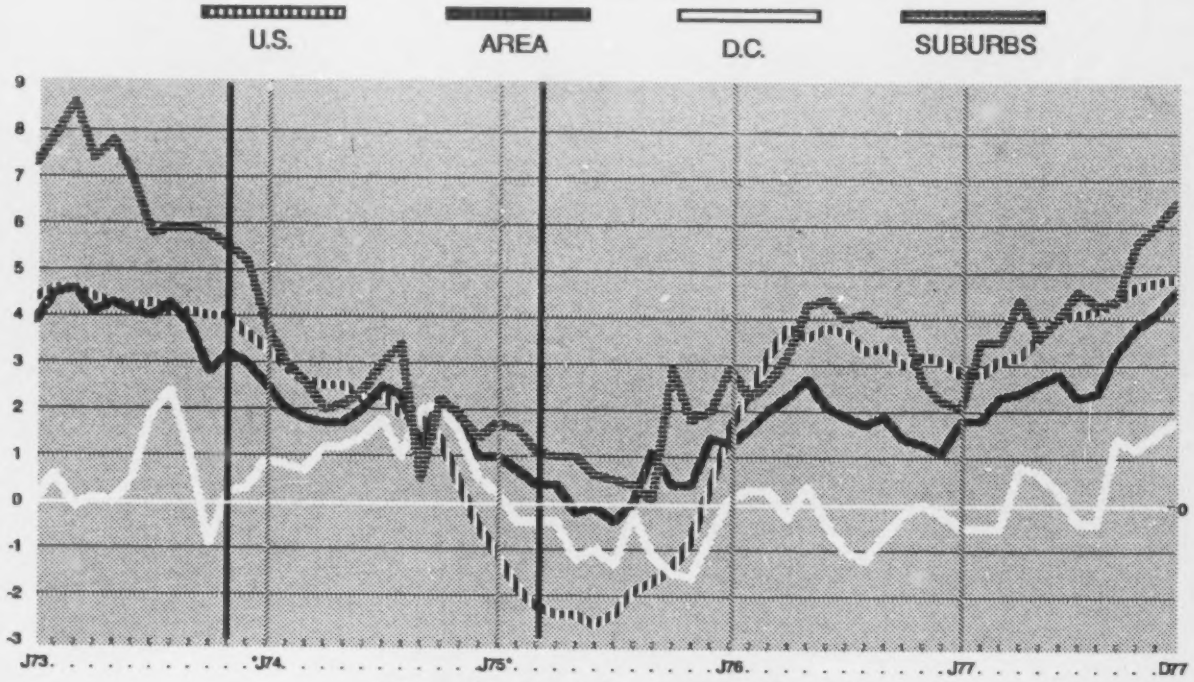
[1]See for example, *Area Labor Summary*, "Industrial Profile: Washington Area Construction Jobs—1949 to 1989," May 1990, PP. 10-14.

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12

	Length of Recession	Lag Between Start of Recession & Job Losses	Length of Job Losses	Maximum Job Loss	Percent Job Loss
1973-1975					
United States	16 mos.	12 mos.	12 mos.	2.1 million	2.6
Washington Area	na	17 mos.	4 mos.	4.8 thousand	0.4
District	na	14 mos.	11 mos.	9.1 thousand	1.6
Suburbs	na	none	none	none	none
1980					
United States	6 mos.	4 mos.	5 mos.	2.1 million	2.3
Washington Area	na	none	none	none	none
District	na	none	none	none	none
Suburbs	na	none	none	none	none
1981-1982					
United States	16 mos.	4 mos.	18 mos.	2.4 million	2.6
Washington Area	na	4 mos.	12 mos.	24.3 thousand	1.5
District	na	4 mos. before	27 mos.	17.6 thousand	2.9
Suburbs	na	8 mos.	6 mos.	9.4 thousand	0.9

Chart #1 1973 - 1975 Recession
Monthly Over-The-Year Rate Of Job Growth

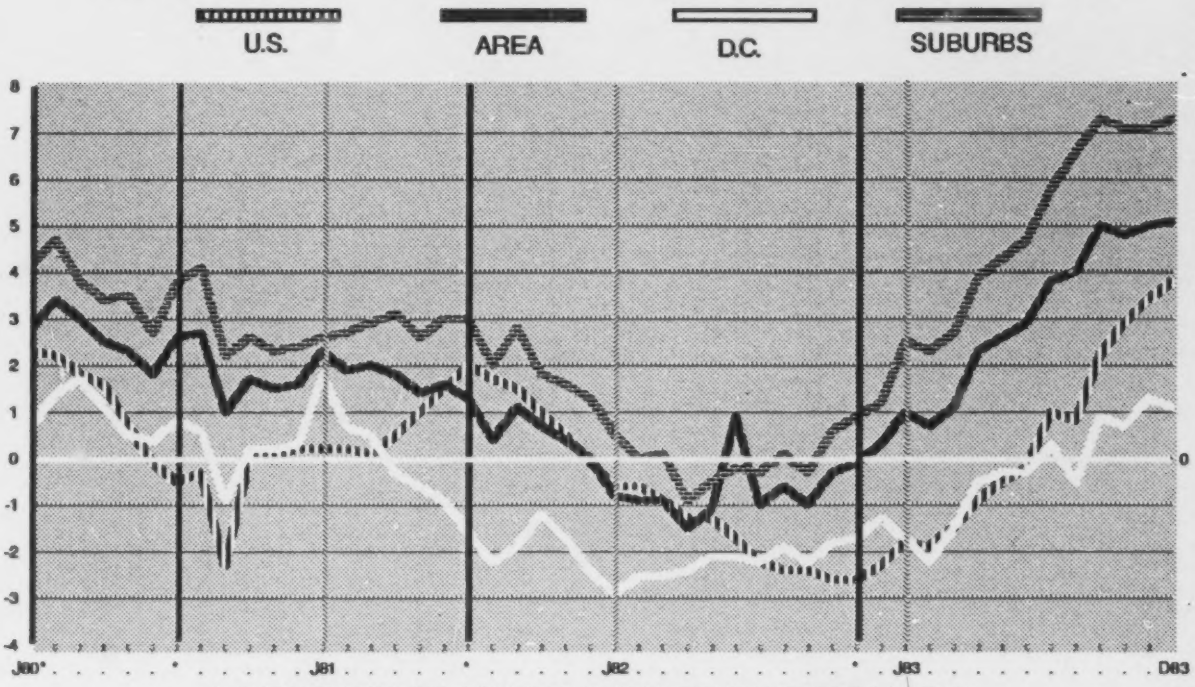


* November 1973 to March 1975: 16 Months

Continued on page 14

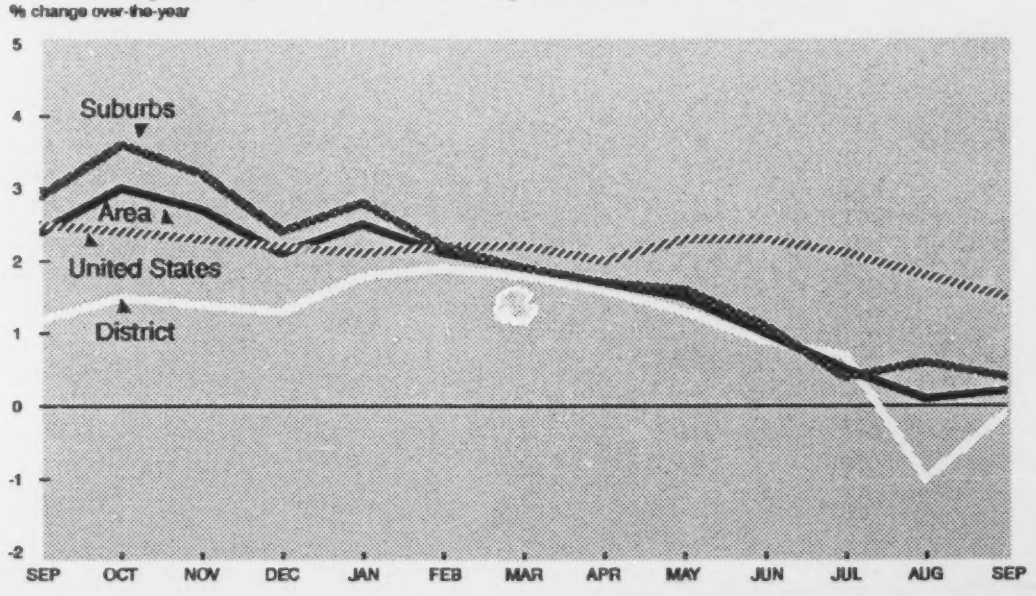
Continued from page 13

Chart #2 1980, 1981 - 1982 Recessions
Monthly Over-The-Year Rate Of Job Growth



* JANUARY 1980 TO JULY 1980 & JULY 1981 TO NOVEMBER 1982

Chart # 3 Monthly Over-The-Year Rate Of Job Growth
September 1989 - September 1990



Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Areas

In August 1990, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 269 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. The Washington Area's August jobless rate was up 0.1 percentage point to 3.3 percent. This was the twenty-fifth lowest jobless rate of the 269 areas reporting. A year ago, the Washington Area rate was 2.6 percent.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 3.3 percent was the lowest of all the major metropolitan areas.

The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, reported a 0.2 percentage point drop in their August jobless rate to 4.8 percent. Before last month, Baltimore's rate had increased two consecutive months. A year ago, the Baltimore rate was 3.9 percent.

The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, recorded a 0.4 percentage point increase in its August jobless rate, up from 3.4 percent to 3.8 percent. A year ago, the rate was 3.1 percent.

In addition, to the Washington, D.C. Area and the Richmond-Petersburg Area, jobless rates between 3.3 percent and 3.9 percent were reported in 8 other selected metropolitan areas, the lowest being recorded in San Francisco also 3.3 percent and Seattle 3.4 percent.

There were 14 large metropolitan areas with rates between 4.0 and 4.9 percent. There were 10 large metropolitan areas with rates between 5.0 and 5.9 percent, and 5 large metropolitan areas with rates between 6.0 and 6.9 percent. There were 4 areas with rates above 7 percent with the largest posted by the Detroit Area at 7.6 percent.

Of the 269 metropolitan areas for which August data are available, 59 had over-the-year decreases of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rate, while 30 had increases of that magnitude. A total of 42 areas had August 1990 rates of 7 percent or higher, while 65 had rates below 4 percent.

Unemployment Rates in Selected Statistical Areas

MSA	August	
	1990*	1989
1. Washington, D.C.	**3.3**	**2.6**
2. San Francisco, CA	3.3	3.2
3. Seattle, WA	3.4	4.4
4. Milwaukee, WI	3.6	3.6
5. Cincinnati, OH	3.7	4.0
6. Pittsburgh, PA	3.7	3.9
7. Columbus, OH	3.7	4.0
8. Richmond-Petersburg, VA	3.8	3.1
9. Nashville, TN	3.9	3.6
10. Oakland, CA	3.9	4.0
11. Sacramento, CA	4.0	4.3
12. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	4.1	3.7
13. Cleveland, OH	4.1	4.1
14. Philadelphia, PA	4.1	3.6
15. Louisville, KY	4.3	5.1
16. Portland, OR	4.3	4.4
17. Phoenix, AR	4.3	4.9
18. San Diego, CA	4.3	3.9
19. Salt Lake City, UT	4.4	4.3
20. Denver, CO	4.4	4.9
21. Memphis, TN	4.5	4.4
22. Dayton, OH	4.6	5.7
23. Buffalo, NY	4.6	5.7
24. Baltimore, MD	4.8	3.9
25. Newark, NJ	5.0	4.7
26. Kansas City, MO	5.1	4.4
27. Dallas, TX	5.1	6.1
28. Indianapolis, IN	5.3	3.5
29. Houston, TX	5.3	6.4
30. Atlanta, GA	5.4	5.3
31. Boston, MA	5.7	3.5
32. Jackson, MS	5.8	5.2
33. New York, NY	5.8	5.3
34. Oklahoma City, OK	5.9	4.1
35. New Orleans, LA	6.1	6.9
36. Birmingham, AL	6.2	6.3
37. Chicago, IL	6.2	5.6
38. St. Louis, MO	6.3	5.1
39. Los Angeles, CA	6.6	4.5
40. Gary, IN	7.1	4.6
41. Montgomery, AL	7.1	7.1
42. Miami, FL	7.5	6.1
43. Detroit, MI	7.6	6.0

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

States

When the District of Columbia (with an August preliminary unemployment rate of 6.1 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the eleventh highest jobless rate in the Country. This was six notches above July's standing. Virginia's rate at 4.1 percent was up 0.3 percentage point from July. Maryland's rate was down 0.1 percentage point to 4.4 percent. Virginia and Maryland have two of the sixteen lowest jobless rates among the 51 jurisdictions. This month, Maryland and Virginia ranked thirty-fourth and forty-second, respectively, in the standings. A year ago, Maryland's rate was 3.6 percent, while Virginia's was 3.1 percent.

Twelve states and the District of Columbia reported over-the-year increases of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rate. The largest increases took place in Massachusetts (2.5 percentage points) and Rhode Island and Indiana (both 2.2 percent). Four states reported over-the-year decreases greater than 1 percentage point. Wyoming had the largest drop (2.1 percentage points), followed by Texas and Washington (both 1.3 points) and Louisiana (1.1 points).

Four states had unemployment rates greater than 7 percent. West Virginia (8.7 percent) and Mississippi (7.9 percent) had the highest rates, followed by Alabama (7.6 percent) and Michigan (7.4 percent). In contrast, six states had August unemployment rates below 4 percent. The lowest rates were in Nebraska (2.3 percent) and Hawaii (2.5 percent).

Cities

In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with an August preliminary rate of 6.1 percent) had the tenth highest jobless rate. This was three notches above the position held last month. The average unemployment rate of the 26 cities edged down 0.1 percentage point to 6.9 percent in August. A year ago, the rate was 0.4 percentage point lower at 6.5 percent.

Eight cities reported jobless rates below 6 percent, with the lowest posted in Pittsburgh 3.8 percent followed by Columbus and San Francisco both 4.0 percent.

Baltimore's rate at 7.4 percent was down from the 7.5 percent recorded in July. Baltimore held the eighteenth position among the 26 selected cities. A year ago, Baltimore's rate was 6.2 percent.

The City of Boston is experiencing rising rates of joblessness, as are all of the large cities in New England. In August, the rate was up 0.1 percentage point to 6.3 percent. Over the year, the Boston rate was up 2.3 points.

The central cities, Gary and Detroit, are still in the double digit column and their jobless rates are steadily increasing. In August, Gary's jobless rate increased 2.0 points to 12.1 percent. A year ago, Gary's rate was 8.1 percent, up 4.0 percentage points over the year. On the other hand, Detroit's jobless rate was up 0.8 percentage point over the month. A year ago, Detroit's rate was 10.9 percent.

Of the 26 selected central cities, sixteen cities reported increases in joblessness and nine cities reported decreases in joblessness over the year. The largest increases were reported by Gary 4.0 points, Los Angeles 2.4 points and Boston 2.3 points. The largest decreases in joblessness were recorded by Buffalo (1.5 points) and 1.2 points each in the Texas cities of Houston and Dallas. New Orleans also recorded a drop of 1.2 points. Cleveland at 6.5 percent was unchanged over the year.

Hire More Workers,

Pay Less Taxes!

TARGETED JOBS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM (TJTC)

(Call 639-1661)

Unemployment Rates by State, August 1990

Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities

	August	
	1990*	1989
1. Pittsburgh, PA	3.8	4.0
2. Columbus, OH	4.0	4.4
3. San Francisco, CA	4.0	4.1
4. Salt Lake City, UT	4.4	4.6
5. Cincinnati, OH	4.6	5.1
6. Milwaukee, WI	4.9	4.8
7. Philadelphia, PA	5.2	4.7
8. Houston, TX	5.7	6.9
9. Dallas, TX	6.0	7.2
10. District of Columbia	**6.1**	**4.7**
11. New York, NY	6.2	5.6
12. Boston, MA	6.3	4.0
13. New Orleans, LA	6.5	7.7
14. Buffalo, NY	6.5	8.0
15. Cleveland, OH	6.5	6.5
16. Dayton, OH	6.9	6.8
17. Los Angeles, CA	7.4	5.0
18. Baltimore, MD	7.4	6.2
19. Atlanta, GA	7.9	7.8
20. Chicago, IL	8.2	7.5
21. St. Louis, MO	8.7	8.0
22. Birmingham, AL	8.9	8.6
23. Miami, FL	9.2	7.6
24. Newark, NJ	9.5	8.9
25. Detroit, MI	11.6	10.9
26. Gary, IN	12.1	8.1

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

Unemployment Insurance Activities September 1990

The combined program measures of unemployment insurance activity all declined from August to September 1990. This pattern has been the same for the last two years. The number of first payments dropped 30 percent, and led all other measures as it did last year in September. Initial claims fell by 20 percent and final payments and total benefit outlay followed at 14 percent each. Weeks compensated was a close third at 13 percent.

This pattern is principally seasonal in nature, where September (and other last quarter months) represents a low point. There are a number of claimants who are eligible in the last month of the quarter, but who wait until the following month (the beginning of a new base period) and take advantage of a higher wage base figure that determines a higher benefit amount. In addition, August was a high month in initial claims activity because of recent layoffs in health care, retail, and banking industries. September may have exhibited a return to "normalcy" in relative terms.

When the year-to-date (January-September) and third quarter data are compared for the last several years, a different pattern emerges. Trendwise in both periods, activity declined from 1986 through 1988, with the sharpest decline in 1988. Workload and outlay have increased since that point. The 1990 experience reflects the effects of an extremely cold winter (particularly December 1989 and January 1990) and a deteriorating economy, manifested by closures of several establishments and large layoffs in others.

The nine-month compensated weeks figure in 1990 rose six percent above last year, while the $68 million benefit outlay in the same period was 11 percent over last year. The quarterly measures indicate the point at which the effects were most acute. The third quarter 1990 weeks soared 18 percent above 1989 and outlay jumped 24 percent. Major layoffs and/or closures contributing to these increases include Garfinckels, George Washington University Hospital, Howard University Hospital, Mega Food Stores and the National Bank of Washington.

Weeks Compensated, Total and Average Weekly Unemployment Compensation Outlays
January-September and Third Quarters
District of Columbia
1986-1990

	JANUARY-SEPTEMBER					CHANGE			
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	86-87	87-88	88-89	89-90
Wks Compensated	346,655	337,693	305,888	311,242	330,341	-8,962	-31,805	+5,354	+19,099
Total Outlay	$55,701,293	$58,874,947	$56,208,459	$61,358,555	$68,092,853	+$3,173,654	-$2,666,488	+$5,150,096	+$6,743,298
Avg. Wkly. Benefit	$160.68	$174.38	$183.76	$197.14	$211.13	+$13.66	+$9.38	+$13.38	+$13.99

	THIRD QUARTER					CHANGE			
Wks Compensated	115,465	106,777	100,136	102,532	121,028	-8,688	-6,641	+2,396	+18,496
Total Outlay	$19,012,820	$18,794,369	$18,666,770	$20,525,857	$25,508,990	-$218,451	-$128,092	+$1,859,580	+$4,983,133
Avg. Wkly. Benefit	$164.66	$176.02	$186.41	$200.19	$210.77	+$11.36	+$10.39	+$13.78	+$10.58

Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
September 1990

	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989	% Change From Aug. 1990	% Change From Sept. 1989
State UI Program[a]					
Initial Claims Taken	2,852	3,544	2,149	-19.5	+32.7
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	35,747	39,094	30,097	-8.6	+18.8
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	35,981	41,538	28,968	-13.4	+24.2
Total Benefits Paid	$7,561,993	$8,829,583	$5,745,792	-14.4	+31.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$210.17	$212.57	$198.35	-1.1	+6.0
Number of First Payments	1,881	2,664	1,278	-29.4	+47.2
Number of Final Payments	834	980	769	-14.9	+8.5
Total Beneficiaries	10,729	10,878	8,463	-1.4	+26.8
Federal Program[b]					
Initial Claims Taken	71	95	91	-25.3	-22.0
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	1,744	1,833	2,069	-4.9	-15.7
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	1,776	2,055	2,417	-13.6	-26.5
Total Benefits Paid	$409,528	$478,347	$563,950	-14.4	-27.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$230.59	$232.77	$233.33	-0.9	-1.2
Number of First Payments	76	138	107	-44.9	-29.0
Number of Final Payments	49	60	86	-18.3	-43.0
Total Beneficiaries	492	525	689	-6.3	-28.6
Ex-Servicepersons Program[c]					
Initial Claims Taken	33	38	25	-13.2	+32.0
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	298	323	263	-7.7	+13.3
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	233	254	217	-8.3	+17.1
Total Benefits Paid	$49,160	$51,943	$45,335	-5.4	+8.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$210.99	$204.50	$208.92	+3.2	+1.0
Number of First Payments	15	33	18	-54.5	-16.7
Number of Final Payments	13	10	14	+30.0	-7.1
Total Beneficiaries	73	79	71	-7.6	+2.8
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	2,956	3,677	2,265	-19.6	+30.5
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	37,789	41,250	32,429	-8.4	+16.5
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	37,990	43,847	31,602	-13.4	+20.2
Total Benefits Paid	$8,020,681	$9,359,873	$6,355,077	-14.3	+26.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$211.13	$213.47	$201.10	-1.1	+5.0
Number of First Payments	1,972	2,835	1,403	-30.4	+40.6
Number of Final Payments	896	1,050	869	-14.7	+3.1
Total Beneficiaries	11,294	11,482	9,223	-1.6	+22.5

a/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).

b/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Serviceperson (UCX).

c/ No joint claims.

The Washington, D.C. Area Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area rose 1.7 percent during the 2 months ended in September to a level of 138.0 (1982-84=100). **For the 12-month period ended in September the CPI-U rose 6.1 percent.** The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) rose 1.7 percent from July to September. The September level of 136.9 (1982-84=100) was 5.7 percent higher than the index in September 1989.

The 1.7 percent increase in the CPI-U from July to September follows an increase of 1.3 percent in the preceding 2-month period. Sharply higher apparel prices and accelerating transportation costs accounted for over two-thirds of the increase from July to September.

Comparing the local CPI-U with the U.S. city average, the first five months of the year saw the prices of goods and services accelerating more rapidly nationally than locally. During the May-to-July period, the prices of goods and services accelerated more rapidly locally than nationally. For the July-to-September period, the acceleration was just about even. The local index rose 1.7 percent, while the national index rose 1.8 percent. Over the year, the local index rose 6.1 percent and the national index rose 6.2 percent, only 0.1 percent higher nationally.

Over the month, the prices of goods and services tended to increase more rapidly nationally in four of the seven expenditure categories—transportation, medical care, housing and food and beverages. On the other hand, prices of goods and services tended to increase more rapidly locally for apparel and upkeep, other goods and services and entertainment. During the July-to-September period, the prices of energy increased much higher locally rising by 10.5 percent, while nationally the price of energy remained unchanged.

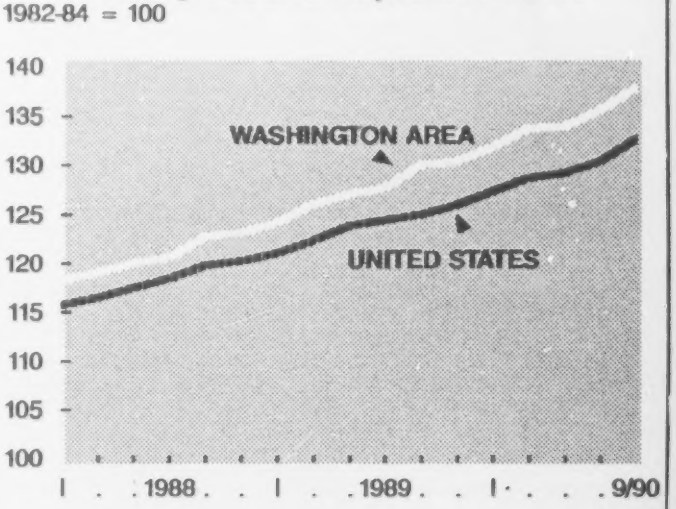
Washington, D.C.
Area Consumer Price Index
(All Urban Consumers—CPI-U)[a/]

		Percent Change	
	September 1990	2 months Ago	Year Ago
ALL Items			
U.S.	132.7	+1.8	+6.2
Washington Area	138.0	+1.7	+6.1
Expenditure Category			
Food & Beverage	133.9	+0.0	+5.6
Housing	138.8	+0.3	+5.4
Apparel & Upkeep	147.0	+8.9	+3.4
Transportation	122.3	+3.0	+6.9
Medical Care	164.3	+1.2	+11.6
Entertainment	139.6	+1.9	+7.0
Other Goods & Services	168.3	+2.4	+6.7
Special Index:			
Energyb/	107.4	+10.5	+9.5

a/ 1982-84=100, except as noted.
b/ June 1978=100.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; table prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff.

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U)
United States & Washington Area
January 1988 to September 1990



Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for September 1990 increased $2.53. Average Weekly Hours rose .2 hour as the Average Hourly Earnings did not change from last month.

In the Durable Goods Sector, Stone, Clay and Glass Products' increase in Weekly Earnings of $63.75 was caused by more overtime being worked. It also caused Hourly Earnings to go up 34 cents. The Weekly Hours rise of 4.2 hours was due to a longer scheduled workweek. In Other Durable Goods, an increase in the proportion of lower paid employees caused the Hourly Earnings to drop 23 cents.

In the Non-Durable Goods Sector, Other Non-Durable Goods had a shorter scheduled workweek. Thus, the Weekly Hours show a decrease of 1.0 hour.

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
September 1990

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989
Total Manufacturing	496.36	493.83	476.80	39.3	39.1	39.7	12.63	12.63	12.01
Durable Goods	524.36	524.06	493.35	42.7	42.4	42.9	12.28	12.36	11.50
Stone Clay & Glass Products	552.94	489.19	532.78	47.3	43.1	46.9	11.69	11.35	11.36
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	487.34	484.31	445.55	41.3	41.5	42.8	11.80	11.67	10.41
Other Durable Goods	530.87	543.15	499.73	42.3	42.5	42.1	12.55	12.78	11.87
Non-Durable Goods	475.27	471.04	462.87	36.7	36.6	37.0	12.95	12.87	12.51
Food & Kindred Products	483.05	467.46	427.18	42.9	42.0	40.8	11.26	11.13	10.47
Printing & Publishing	495.17	488.82	491.00	34.7	34.4	35.4	14.27	14.21	13.87
Other Non-Durable Goods	394.83	401.43	378.33	41.3	42.3	40.9	9.56	9.49	9.25

Total Production Workers	Sep. 1990	Aug. 1990	Sep. 1989
	41,600	41,400	41,700

Employers!

If you're interested in filling job openings, call the Department of Employment Services, EMPLOYER SERVICES CENTER and ask about:

Positive Recruitment

We will be happy to:

ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES throughout the Metropolitan Area

PRE-SCREEN APPLICANTS to match their qualifications with your requirements

PRE-TEST APPLICANTS for general aptitudes or specific clerical skills

PROVIDE INTERVIEWING SPACE and assistance at your convenience.

We call this service POSITIVE RECRUITMENT. It gets positive results, it's effective, and it costs you nothing!

Several major employers use our service for continuous recruitment. They visit our offices weekly to interview applicants for their job openings.

We're here to help YOU. Call the Employer Services Center at 639-1601, or 1602 and ask about POSITIVE RECRUITMENT. It works!

Department of Employment Services
Government of the
District of Columbia
Marion Barry Jr., Mayor